

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 CU-05 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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O R 261130Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9574

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 193

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNESCO, UN, NP , CB

SUBJECT: KHMER CREDENTIALS AT UNESCO AND UNGA

REF: STATE 210886

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL INSTRUCTION DCM SEPTEMBER 26 CALLED SEPARATELY ON PALACE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR CHIRAN THAPA AND MFA JOINT SECRETARY UN AFFAIRS UDDEV BHATT TO REVIEW USG POSITION ON KHMER CREDENTIALS AND TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR GKR EFFORTS TO RETAIN ITS SEAT IN UNESCO. DCM STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING POLITICAL ISSUE OF THIS KIND OUT OF UNESCO PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN UNGA ITSELF HAD ENTIRE KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE ON ITS CURRENT AGENDA.

2. IN ADDITION DCM EMPHASIZED GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH USG ATTACHES TO THIS ISSUE AND NOTED THE PERSONAL INTEREST OF HIGHEST LEVELS IN USG INCLUDING SECRETARY, DCM NOTED THAT PRECEDENT OF SEATING AN EXILE GOVERNMENT WAS A DANGEROUS ONE FOR COUNTRY SUCH AS NEPAL WHICH HAS ITS OWN EXILE PROBLEM. DCM ALSO GAVE BOTH OFFICERS
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DETAILED REVIEW OF BALANCE OF FORCES IN CAMBODIA POINT-

ING TO EFFECTIVE CONTROL WHICH GKR EXERCISED OVER MAJORITY OF CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND ITS FORTHCOMING OFFER OF UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. FINALLY DCM SAID THAT WHILE WE RECOGNIZED GON DESIRE NOT TO BE ISOLATED FROM ITS MANY THIRD WORLD FRIENDS, THIS WAS BY NO MEANS AN ISSUE ON WHICH ALL NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WERE UNITED, AND THAT MOST SOUTH-EAST ASIAN STATES CONTINUED TO SUPPORT GKR. EVEN CHINESE, FROM WHAT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, WERE SOMEWHAT EQUIVOCAL IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK PERSONALLY AND THAT HIS FUTURE WOULD BE UNCERTAIN ONE EVEN IF GKR WERE OVERTHROWN.

3. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S PRESENTATIONS BOTH GON OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT GON WOULD DEFINITELY VOTE AGAINST POSTPONEOMNT OF KHMER CREDENTIALS ISSUE IF SUCH A VOTE CAME UP. HOWEVER, ON SUBSTANCE OF REPRESENTATION ISSUE CHIRANG THAPA SAID THAT GON STILL HAD OPEN MIND AND DID NOT RULE OUT ABSTENTION. HE NOTED THAT OUR DEMARCHE WAS A TIMELY ONE AND THAT HE WOULD CONVEY USG VIEWS TO KING. NEITHER THAPA NOR BHATT TOOK ISSUE WITH OUR ARGUMENT, AND THAPA IN PARTICULAR ACKNOWLEDGED FORCE OF ARGUMENT THAT IT WAS NOT IN NEPAL'S INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE EXILE GOVERNMENT TBBLAY CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTH.

4. COMMENTS: NEPALESE DECISION ON KHMER ISSUE STILL APPEARS TO BE IN FLUX. WHILE WE HAD EARLIER BELIEVED (KATHMANDU 3618) THAT GON WOULD PREFER PROCEDURAL WAY OUT, IT APPEARS THAT THEY FEEL COMMITTED TO MAINTAIN LAST YEAR'S POSITION IN FAVOR OF INSCRIPTION (KATHMANDU 3733). AT PRESENT GON IS ACTIVELY SEEKING TO PROMOTE IMAGE OF CLOSE US-NEPALESE RELATIONS, AND KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS USSUE IS ONE TO WHICH WE ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE COULD WELL HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT. AS INDICATED IN PREVIOUS KATHMANDU REPORTING, WE HOPE DEPT WILL REITERATE POINTS WE HAVE USED HERE WHICH ARE THOSE WE BELIEVE MOST LIKELY TO BE PERSUASISVE WITH GON AT THIS TIME. UNESCO VOTE IS SECONDARY ISSUE QZR GON AND ABSTENTION IS LIKELY UNLESS GON HAS ALREADY TAKEN FIRM DECISION TO SUPPORT SIHANOUK CREDENTIALS AT UNGA.
CARGO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBER ADMISSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KATHMA03978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740271-0678
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740912/aaaaajwp.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 210886
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER CREDENTIALS AT UNESCO AND UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, NP, CB, UNESCO, UN, (THAPA, CHIRAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005